definition, they do not count sand particles under foreign matter. In other words, inorganic matter, which is a part and parcel of foreign matter like sand, stones, pebbles clay particles etc. are not accepted under this category. The explanation given by them was that only organic foreign matter (like chaff, glumes, weed seeds and other edible and inedible grains) are taken under this category. The exporters did not know this position. They presumed that, as in the CODEX standards, the 2% foreign matter would include upto 0.5% inorganic matter. The delegation was further informed that the Iraqi flour mills were not having adequate facilities for separation of inorganic matter because of the problem of spare parts required for maintenance of such machines owing to UN sanctions. The delegation was further informed that Iraq had also rejected the wheat sourced from various other countries on the same grounds. As the consignment conformed to the CODEX standards, it was accepted in Dubai.

BPL population in Uttaranchal

†3363. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of people living Below the Poverty Line in Uttaranchal is less as compared to those in the plain areas; and

(b) if so, the actual number and the percentage thereof alongwith the quantum of foodgrains being allocated to the State under this head, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line at national and State level from the large sample survey data on consumer expenditure. The latest estimates of poverty are available for year 1999-2000 based on the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the 55th Round. It gives the poverty estimate for the State of Uttar Pradesh. According to this, 31.15% of the total population of Uttar Pradesh is living below poverty line. The estimate of poverty separately for Uttaranchal is not available.

(b) For the purpose of allocation of foodgrains for BPL families under TPDS, Planning Commission's estimate percentage of BPL population for

the year 1993-94 have been adopted for the then undivided Uttar Pradesh including Uttaranchal at 40.85%. As per report received from the State Government, the number of families identified as living below the poverty line is 4,23,051 in Uttalranchal. The monthly allocation of foodgrains made to Uttranchal for the BPL population is as under:—

Wheat	6929 tonnes
Rice	3700 tonnes

Import of foodgrains

†3364. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has imported foodgrains during the current year;

(b) if so, the countries from which foodgrains have been imported alongwith the quantum of import made from each country and the prices thereof; and

(c) the details of the foodgrains exported if any, during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) No import of foodgrains has taken place so far on Government account during the current year. However, the detailed data of imports and exports (including those on non-government account) are available in the monthly/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

During the current year (upto 31.07.2001), PSUs/Agencies *viz*. STC, MMTC, PEC, NAFED, NCCF and MARKFED have exported 12.99 lakh MTs of wheat.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.